

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02381 301518Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 MCE-00 /089 W
-----040863 301522Z /53

O R 301340Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1261
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ANKARA 2381
USEEC
USINFO FOR IOP/M, IPS/PE, IBS/PN, IEU
BONN FOR DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY
USDOCOSOUTH PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US, OTRA (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02381 301518Z

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S
VISIT, MARCH 30
REF: A) ANKARA 2338 (DTG 290950Z MAR 78), B) ANKARA 2339
(DTG 291030Z MAR 78), C) ANKARA 2341 (DTG 291145Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY: ANKARA VISIT OF GROUP HEADED BY DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER
IS LEAD STORY IN MOST TURKISH MEDIA MARCH 30. REPORTING

LIMITED PRIMARILY TO STATEMENTS MADE BY DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER, FONMIN OKCUN, AND PRIMIN ECEVIT. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION ABOUT PROPOSALS BROUGHT FROM WASHINGTON, AND MILLIYET QUOTES ALLEGED WASHINGTON SOURCES FOR ITS STORY. SEVERAL PAPERS INDICATE DELEGATION PRESSURED TURKEY FOR CONCESSIONS TO EASE PASSAGE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA). END SUMMARY

2. MOST NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AND RADIO/TELEVISION NEWS COVERAGE HIGHLIGHT STATEMENTS MADE BY THE DEPSEC, FONMIN OKCUN, AND PRIMIN ON MARCH 29 (REFS A AND C), SPECIALLY PRIMIN ECEVIT'S CONFIRMATION THAT AMERICAN DELEGATION BROUGHT PROPOSALS FROM WASHINGTON.

3. OTHER REPORTING DOMINATED BY SPECULATION AND "LEAKS" FROM WASHINGTON AND ANKARA SOURCES. PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET QUOTES NEWS AGENCY REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SAYING THAT THE DEPSEC'S PARTY BROUGHT A "PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS", INCLUDING ARMS SALES TO TURKEY, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY. THE PACKAGE IS NOT FINALIZED, BUT ACCORDING TO AN UNIDENTIFIED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, THE FULL PACKAGE WILL TAKE FINAL SHAPE DURING THE VISIT.

4. MASS APPEAL HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, HEADLINES ITS REPORT, "THE AMERICANS ARE SEEKING TO SOFTEN-UP TURKEY AND PUT ON PRESSURE".
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 02381 301518Z

HURRIYET SAYS, ACCORDING TO NEWS LEAKS, THE AMERICANS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THEY ARE KEEPING TURKISH-US RELATIONS AND THE CYPRUS ISSUE SEPARATE BUT WOULD LIKE TURKEY TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS IN THE CYPRUS CONTEXT WHICH WOULD HELP MOLLIFY CONGRESS. THE HURRIYET ACCOUNT FURTHER NOTES THAT THE USG SINCERELY WISHES TO BE HELPFUL IN THE SEARCH FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AND IF THE GOT CAN PROVIDE A PRIVATE DESCRIPTION OF ITS CYPRUS PROPOSALS, THE USG MAY BE ABLE TO HELP CONVINCE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO ACCEPT THEM. THE DELEGATION ALSO REPORTEDLY:

-- SAID THAT THE USG IS WILLING TO HELP FIND FORMULAS TO ASSIST TURKEY IN ACQUIRING THE ARMS IT NEEDS, AND

--DISCUSSED IN PARTICULAR PRIMIN ECEVIT'S TRIP TO MOSCOW AND THE "POLITICAL DOCUMENT" TO BE SIGNED.

5. HURRIYET IS THE ONLY PAPER WE HAVE SEEN WHICH REPORTS ON THE WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL OF MARCH 29. HURRIYET NOTES THAT THE POST SAID THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE LIFTED AND QUOTES ITS COMMENT THAT THE "EFFORT TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS FROM TURKEY BY IMPOSING AN EMBARGO IS ONE OF THE INFREQUENT FAILURES OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY."

6. IN ITS STORY, LEADING OPPOSITION PAPER TERCUMAN EMPHASIZES AN AKDENIZ NEWS AGENCY REPORT THAT DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER'S PLANNED STOPS IN BONN AND LONDON ARE TIED TO THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS WHICH AIM TO CLOSE THE GAP IN THE ARMS REQUIREMENTS OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES BY ENCOURAGING INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS BY GERMANY AND ENGLAND THROUGH NATO. SMALL, LEFTIST BARIS CARRIES AN ALMOST IDENTICAL STORY.

7. SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN SAYS THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION "DEMANDED" CONCESSIONS, BUT WAS RECEIVED COOLY. IT ADDS THAT THE US IS SEEKING GOT HELP TO CONVINCE CONGRESS TO PASS THE DCA, AND THE GROUP BROUGHT PROPOSALS TO REDUCE TURKISH REACTION.
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PAGE 04 ANKARA 02381 301518Z

8. SEVERAL PAPERS, AMONG THEM LEFTIST POLITIKA ON ITS FRONT PAGE AND MILLIYET ON AN INSIDE PAGE, REPORT THE TASS ACCOUNT OF THE DEPSEC'S VISIT PREPARED BY TASS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT VITALI GAN. THE TASS REPORT SAYS THAT THE DELEGATION'S VISIT RESULTED FROM AMERICAN CONCERN THAT TURKEY MAY LOOSEN ITS TIES WITH NATO AND ADOPT A MORE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY. THE AIM OF THE VISIT IS TO PRESSURE ECEVIT TO MAINTAIN TURKEY'S ALLEGIANCE TO THE WEST, TASS SAYS.
DILLON

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